News

United States
Department
of Labor

Bureau of Labor Statistics

Dallas, TX 75202

HIGHLIGHTS OF BROWNSVILLE-HARLINGEN-SAN BENITO, TX
NATIONAL COMPENSATION SURVEY JULY 2004

Workers in the Brownsville-Harlingen-San Benito metropolitan area averaged $12.82 per hour during July 2004, according to a new survey released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor. Regional Commissioner Stanley W. Suchman reported that white-collar workers averaged $17.47 per hour and accounted for 47 percent of the workers in the area. Blue-collar employees averaged $9.76 per hour and represented 20 percent of the workforce, while the remainder worked in service occupations and earned $7.26 per hour. (See table 1.)

The National Compensation Survey (NCS) presents straight-time earnings for occupations in establishments with 50 or more workers in private industry and State and local governments. The survey excludes agricultural establishments, private households, the self-employed, and the Federal Government. This NCS covered 159 firms representing 46,600 workers in the Brownsville-Harlingen-San Benito metropolitan area, which includes Cameron County in Texas. Sixty-five percent of those represented worked in private industry.

In the Brownsville metropolitan area, average hourly wages were published for 21 detailed occupations. (See table 1.) Among white-collar workers, registered nurses averaged $27.55 per hour; bookkeepers, accounting and auditing clerks, $10.25; and cashiers, $8.07. Blue-collar occupations included stock handlers and baggers at $5.67 per hour. In the service occupations, cooks averaged $8.08 per hour and nursing aides, orderlies and attendants, $6.44.

The NCS also provides broad coverage of selected occupational characteristics. (See tables 2 and 3.) For example, full-time employees in the Brownsville area averaged $14.29 per hour and part-timers earned $6.38. Union workers averaged $21.09 per hour, while their nonunion counterparts made $12.70. Private industry workers at establishments employing 50-99 workers averaged $9.83 per hour and those in establishments with 500 or more employees earned $12.11.

The NCS is part of a statistical program that integrates three previously separate surveys of wages and benefits into one comprehensive compensation program increasing the amount of data available. Data provided by the NCS may be used by businesses for establishing pay plans, making decisions concerning plant relocation, and in collective bargaining negotiations. Individuals may use such data to help choose potential careers. Average rates of pay are also available for levels of work within an occupation based on knowledge, skill, independent judgment, supervision received and other factors required on the job.

Survey Availability

Complete survey results are contained in the <u>Brownsville-Harlingen-San Benito, TX National Compensation Survey July 2004</u> (Bulletin 3125-18). While supplies last, single copies of the bulletin are available from the Dallas Information Office by calling 214-767-6970. In addition, data contained in the bulletin are available on the Internet in both text and PDF formats at <u>http://www.bls.gov/ncs/ocs/compub.htm</u>. This release can also be obtained from the Bureau's fax-on-demand service in Dallas by dialing 214-767-9613 and requesting document 9508.

For personal assistance or further information on the National Compensation Survey, as well as other Bureau programs, contact the Dallas Information Office at 214-767-6970 from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. CT.

Table 1. Mean hourly earnings[1], all workers[2]: Selected occupations, private industry and State and local government, National Compensation Survey, Brownsville-Harlingen-San Benito, TX, July 2004

Occupation[3]	Total		Private industry		State and local government	
	Mean	Relative error[4] (percent)	Mean	Relative error[4] (percent)	Mean	Relative error[4] (percent)
All	$12.82	3.7	$10.11	5.7	$17.97	3.1
All excluding sales	13.01	4.0	10.04	6.4	17.97	3.1
White collar	17.47	3.3	13.85	5.5	21.59	3.6
White collar excluding sales	18.83	3.1	15.32	5.7	21.59	3.6
Professional specialty and technical	23.98	2.5	19.90	4.5	26.15	2.4
Professional specialty	26.06	2.2	24.77	5.9	26.35	2.4
Engineers, architects, and surveyors	–	–	–	–	–	–
Mathematical and computer scientists	–	–	–	–	–	–
Health related	27.12	6.5	26.55	7.0	–	–
Registered nurses	27.55	4.1	26.87	1.3	–	–
Teachers, college and university	–	–	–	–	–	–
Teachers, except college and university	26.95	1.0	–	–	27.37	.9
Elementary school teachers	27.51	.5	–	–	27.51	.5
Secondary school teachers	27.25	1.6	–	–	27.28	1.6
Social, recreation, and religious workers	–	–	–	–	–	–
Writers, authors, entertainers, athletes, and professionals, n.e.c.	–	–	–	–	–	–
Technical	16.32	6.4	16.44	6.7	–	–
Licensed practical nurses	15.91	2.5	15.95	2.5	–	–
Health technologists and technicians, n.e.c.	19.01	5.0	–	–	–	–
Executive, administrative, and managerial	25.93	9.1	24.93	10.4	26.69	14.9
Executives, administrators, and managers	27.14	8.0	25.06	10.4	29.13	13.0
Managers and administrators, n.e.c.	25.30	21.6	19.18	11.7	–	–
Management related	18.24	10.4	–	–	18.31	11.0
Sales	10.58	7.7	10.58	7.7	–	–
Sales workers, other commodities	9.49	9.5	9.49	9.5	–	–
Cashiers	8.07	3.2	8.07	3.2	–	–
Administrative support, including clerical	9.60	2.6	9.08	4.0	10.29	3.0
Secretaries	9.68	5.9	–	–	10.71	5.8
Bookkeepers, accounting and auditing clerks	10.25	3.8	9.49	10.0	–	–
General office clerks	8.98	4.5	–	–	9.37	2.0
Teachers' aides	9.99	.5	–	–	9.99	.5
Blue collar	9.76	5.0	9.31	5.5	11.68	2.4
Precision production, craft, and repair	14.89	4.4	14.84	6.4	15.02	1.4
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	8.50	8.8	8.50	8.8	–	–
Transportation and material moving	8.73	8.3	–	–	9.84	3.3
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	7.36	3.3	7.12	3.5	8.90	8.6
Stock handlers and baggers	5.67	3.0	5.67	3.0	–	–
Freight, stock, and material handlers, n.e.c.	9.61	9.8	9.61	9.8	–	–
Laborers, except construction, n.e.c.	6.89	9.2	–	–	8.69	9.8
Service	7.26	4.8	6.20	4.8	10.33	4.2
Protective service	10.79	8.1	–	–	14.33	.5
Police and detectives, public service	17.35	9.0	–	–	17.35	9.0
Food service	6.82	13.1	5.49	15.1	9.33	6.4
Waiters, waitresses, and bartenders	–	–	–	–	–	–
Other food service	7.79	8.4	6.58	6.7	9.33	6.4
Cooks	8.08	3.0	–	–	–	–
Food counter, fountain, and related	7.12	13.6	7.12	13.6	–	–
Kitchen workers, food preparation	7.11	7.3	–	–	–	–
Health service	6.39	7.1	6.20	6.9	–	–
Nursing aides, orderlies and attendants	6.44	2.3	6.22	2.1	–	–

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Mean hourly earnings[1],all workers[2]: Selected occupations, private industry and State and local government, National Compensation Survey, Brownsville-Harlingen-San Benito, TX, July 2004 — Continued

Occupation[3]	Total		Private industry		State and local government	
	Mean	Relative error[4] (percent)	Mean	Relative error[4] (percent)	Mean	Relative error[4] (percent)
Service –Continued						
Cleaning and building service	$7.80	5.9	$7.14	13.9	$8.21	2.5
Janitors and cleaners	7.96	1.3	7.27	2.0	8.21	2.5
Personal service	–	–	–	–	–	–

[1] Earnings are the straight-time hourly wages or salaries paid to employees. They include incentive pay, cost-of-living adjustments, and hazard pay. Excluded are premium pay for overtime, vacations, holidays, nonproduction bonuses, and tips. The mean is computed by totaling the pay of all workers and dividing by the number of workers, weighted by hours.

[2] All workers include full-time and part-time workers.

[3] A classification system including about 480 individual occupations is used to cover all workers in the civilian economy. See appendix B for more information.

[4] The relative standard error (RSE) is the standard error expressed as a percent of the estimate. It can be used to calculate a "confidence interval" around a sample estimate. For more information about RSEs, see appendix A.

NOTE: Dashes indicate that no data were reported or that data did not meet publication criteria, and n.e.c. means "not elsewhere classified." Overall occupational groups may include data for categories not shown separately.

Table 2. Selected worker characteristics: Mean hourly earnings[1] by occupational group[2], National Compensation Survey, Brownsville-Harlingen-San Benito, TX, July 2004

Occupational group	Private industry and State and local government					
	Full-time workers[3]	Part-time workers[3]	Union[4]	Nonunion[4]	Time[5]	Incentive[5]
	Mean					
All occupations	$14.29	$6.38	$21.09	$12.70	$12.81	$12.88
All excluding sales	14.52	6.25	21.09	12.89	12.99	–
White collar	18.12	8.81	–	17.30	17.71	11.79
White-collar excluding sales	19.15	10.45	–	18.66	18.83	–
Professional specialty and technical	24.02	–	–	23.79	23.98	–
Professional specialty	26.11	–	–	25.91	26.06	–
Technical	16.35	–	–	16.32	16.32	–
Executive, administrative, and managerial	25.93	–	–	25.93	25.93	–
Sales	11.53	7.50	–	10.58	10.16	11.79
Administrative support, including clerical	9.71	–	–	9.60	9.60	–
Blue collar	10.18	6.34	–	9.70	9.56	–
Precision production, craft, and repair	14.89	–	–	14.93	14.60	–
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	9.00	–	–	8.50	8.50	–
Transportation and material moving	8.68	–	–	8.31	8.38	–
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	7.67	5.85	–	7.36	7.36	–
Service	8.49	5.74	–	7.26	7.18	–
	Relative error[6] (percent)					
All occupations	3.0	5.1	9.2	3.8	3.8	4.2
All excluding sales	3.1	5.2	9.2	4.1	4.1	–
White collar	3.3	9.0	–	3.3	3.2	3.4
White-collar excluding sales	3.1	22.5	–	3.2	3.1	–
Professional specialty and technical	2.6	–	–	2.7	2.5	–
Professional specialty	2.2	–	–	2.4	2.2	–
Technical	6.6	–	–	6.4	6.4	–
Executive, administrative, and managerial	9.1	–	–	9.1	9.1	–
Sales	8.0	9.6	–	7.7	10.7	3.4
Administrative support, including clerical	2.5	–	–	2.6	2.6	–
Blue collar	5.3	5.5	–	5.0	5.2	–
Precision production, craft, and repair	4.4	–	–	4.4	4.2	–
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	8.2	–	–	8.8	8.8	–
Transportation and material moving	8.6	–	–	7.3	7.1	–
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	3.8	2.6	–	3.3	3.3	–
Service	4.0	2.4	–	4.8	4.7	–

[1] Earnings are the straight-time hourly wages or salaries paid to employees. They include incentive pay, cost-of-living adjustments, and hazard pay. Excluded are premium pay for overtime, vacations, holidays, nonproduction bonuses, and tips. The mean is computed by totaling the pay of all workers and dividing by the number of workers, weighted by hours.

[2] A classification system including about 480 individual occupations is used to cover all workers in the civilian economy. See appendix B for more information (in full publication).

[3] Employees are classified as working either a full-time or a part-time schedule based on the definition used by each establishment. Therefore, a worker with a 35-hour-per-week schedule might be considered a full-time employee in one establishment, but classified as part-time in another firm, where a 40-hour week is the minimum full-time schedule.

[4] Union workers are those whose wages are determined through collective bargaining.

[5] Time workers' wages are based solely on an hourly rate or salary; incentive workers are those whose wages are at least partially based on productivity payments such as piece rates, commissions, and production bonuses.

[6] The relative standard error (RSE) is the standard error expressed as a percent of the estimate. It can be used to calculate a "confidence interval" around a sample estimate. For more information about RSEs, see appendix A in full publication.

NOTE: Dashes indicate that no data were reported or that data did not meet publication criteria.

Table 3. Establishment employment size: Mean hourly earnings[1] by occupational group[2], private industry, National Compensation Survey, Brownsville-Harlingen-San Benito, TX, July 2004

Occupational group	Full-time and part-time workers				
	All private industry workers	50 - 99 workers[3]	100 workers or more		
			Total	100 - 499 workers	500 workers or more
	Mean				
All occupations	$10.11	$9.83	$10.16	$9.20	$12.11
All excluding sales	10.04	9.51	10.13	8.97	12.11
White collar	13.85	12.03	14.14	12.33	17.04
White-collar excluding sales	15.32	12.84	15.60	13.94	17.04
Professional specialty and technical	19.90	–	19.95	22.19	19.41
Professional specialty	24.77	–	24.77	33.89	23.10
Technical	16.44	–	16.42	16.21	16.48
Executive, administrative, and managerial	24.93	–	25.49	23.78	–
Sales	10.58	–	10.40	10.40	–
Administrative support, including clerical	9.08	10.14	8.89	9.11	8.43
Blue collar	9.31	10.86	8.93	8.46	11.72
Precision production, craft, and repair	14.84	18.22	13.16	–	–
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	8.50	7.49	8.64	8.45	–
Transportation and material moving	–	–	–	–	–
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	7.12	–	7.47	7.41	–
Service	6.20	5.01	6.36	6.20	6.59
	Relative error[4] (percent)				
All occupations	5.7	7.1	6.3	7.1	6.8
All excluding sales	6.4	10.5	6.9	8.1	6.8
White collar	5.5	3.3	6.2	8.9	7.0
White-collar excluding sales	5.7	7.9	6.2	11.2	7.0
Professional specialty and technical	4.5	–	4.5	14.2	7.2
Professional specialty	5.9	–	6.0	14.7	4.8
Technical	6.7	–	6.9	5.2	9.6
Executive, administrative, and managerial	10.4	–	11.1	16.0	–
Sales	7.7	–	9.8	9.8	–
Administrative support, including clerical	4.0	8.7	4.2	5.8	2.1
Blue collar	5.5	10.8	4.0	4.1	4.1
Precision production, craft, and repair	6.4	9.8	1.9	–	–
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	8.8	7.9	8.6	10.2	–
Transportation and material moving	–	–	–	–	–
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	3.5	–	1.6	1.8	–
Service	4.8	11.6	4.6	7.2	2.6

[1] Earnings are the straight-time hourly wages or salaries paid to employees. They include incentive pay, cost-of-living adjustments, and hazard pay. Excluded are premium pay for overtime, vacations, holidays, nonproduction bonuses, and tips. The mean is computed by totaling the pay of all workers and dividing by the number of workers, weighted by hours.
[2] A classification system including about 480 individual occupations is used to cover all workers in the civilian economy. See appendix B for more information (in full publication).
[3] Establishments classified with 50-99 workers may contain establishments with fewer than 50 due to staff reductions between survey sampling and collection.
[4] The relative standard error (RSE) is the standard error expressed as a percent of the estimate. It can be used to calculate a "confidence interval" around a sample estimate. For more information about RSEs, see appendix A in full publication.

NOTE: Dashes indicate that no data were reported or that data did not meet publication criteria.